

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-27. (canceled).

28. (new): A method for the treatment of osteoarthritis, comprising administering orally to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of inulin sulphate in acid form or as an alkaline metal salt or an alkaline earth metal salt thereof.

29. (new): The method according to claim 28, wherein the alkaline metal salt of inulin sulphate is inulin sulphate sodium salt.

30. (new): The method according to claim 29, wherein the inulin sulphate sodium salt exhibits a degree of sulphation between 25% and 62%, on an anhydrous basis.

31. (new): The method according to claim 30, wherein the degree of sulphation is between 55% and 62%, on an anhydrous basis.

32. (new): The method according to claim 31, wherein the degree of sulphation is 58%, on an anhydrous basis.

33. **(new):** The method according to claim 28, wherein the inulin sulphate is partially hydrolysed.

34. **(new):** The method according to claim 28, wherein the inulin sulphate is inulin polysulphate.

35. **(new):** The method according to claim 34, wherein the inulin polysulphate is inulin polysulphate sodium salt.

36. **(new):** The method according to claim 32, wherein the inulin sulphate sodium salt is inulin polysulphate sodium salt.

37. **(new):** A method for the treatment of osteoarthritis, comprising administering orally to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a sulphated oligosaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, derived from inulin.

38. **(new):** The method according to claim 37, wherein the sulphated oligosaccharide is a polysulphated oligosaccharide.